

OGC 7-1786

OCT 28 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: CIA Career Council  
THROUGH: Deputy Director (Support)  
SUBJECT: CIA Legislative Proposals

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to present to the Career Council additional considerations which have arisen since the preparation of our legislative proposals on 21 March 1957 (TAB A), in order to obtain an expression from the Council on the desirability or wisdom of seeking additional legislation at this time. In this respect, the responses of the Bureau of the Budget, the Civil Service Commission and the Comptroller General, as well as the current policy of the Administration and the Congress are important factors in the development of our legislative position. For the purposes of this memorandum, we will consider our proposal for liberalized retirement benefits and our other legislative proposals separately.

2. Most of our legislative proposals represent efforts on the Agency's part to obtain clear-cut legislative authority to back up internal legal and policy decisions which have been based upon reasoned legislative intent, legal interpretation of existing authorities and the adoption of authorities granted other Government departments in similar circumstances. (A summary of these actions, by programs, is contained in TAB B.) In addition, many of these proposals are contained in similar general legislative provisions which are under consideration by the Administration and which, if enacted, would include this Agency. This latter group includes: educational benefits for dependents, including travel; payment of the cost of storage of household effects; home leave benefits; additional procurement authorities and medical benefits for dependents, including travel.

3. The Bureau of the Budget has advised the Agency that, at the present time, they cannot predict whether the Administration will present its legislative program for increased employee benefits to the Congress when it reconvenes; however, they have given us an informal expression concerning the bulk of our proposals. The Bureau and the Civil Service Commission are sympathetic to our needs and legislative proposals, but the Bureau is of the opinion that CIA will have a difficult time if it tries to obtain separate legislation for these benefits. They feel that if the Congress is favorably disposed toward such legislation, the best chance of obtaining it will be by general legislation, submitted in the Administration's legislative program. If Congress is not so disposed, they feel that CIA has little chance of success on its own. In addition, the Commission is a strong advocate of uniform general legislation on personnel matters and frowns upon any department's seeking individual legislation.

4. Thus far, the Comptroller General has taken a liberal attitude toward our internal action in adopting the programs and authorities of other Government departments through administrative determination under our broad legislative authority. Some of our congressional contacts have encouraged us to "stretch" our existing authorities as far as possible rather than seek additional legislation.

5. Insofar as our retirement proposals are concerned, a different situation exists. Although the Bureau of the Budget and the Civil Service Commission both favor some form of special consideration to civilian employees of the Government who have served for long periods in foreign countries and who in effect have made a career of service overseas, they are not in favor of the retirement proposal as submitted by the Agency. Exception is taken to our proposal both in substance and in form. As in other personnel matters, the Commission favors a uniform retirement plan for all civilian employees serving long periods overseas. In addition, the Commission views our proposal as too liberal unless particular circumstances attach to particular assignments. They also feel that any such liberalized retirement plan should be integrated into a selection-out program, such as the program delineated in the Foreign Service Act. (A summary of the Commission's position on our retirement proposals is contained in TAB C.) Again, the Bureau of the Budget feels that our best chance of success is by means of general

legislation for all civilian Government employees serving overseas, unless the Agency can justify a special provision for a special class of employees or type of assignment.

6. It is suggested that priority consideration be given to the retirement proposal, for if we are to pursue this legislation, considerable discussion and some revision will be required.

7. With respect to the balance of our legislative program it is recommended that no action be taken unless: (1) the Administration eliminates similar general legislation from its program and, (2) we have reason to expect a more favorable reaction from the Congress than is now indicated.


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Legislative Counsel

Attachments - 3  
Tabs A, B, & C

CONCUR:  
25X1A

  
Director of Personnel

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